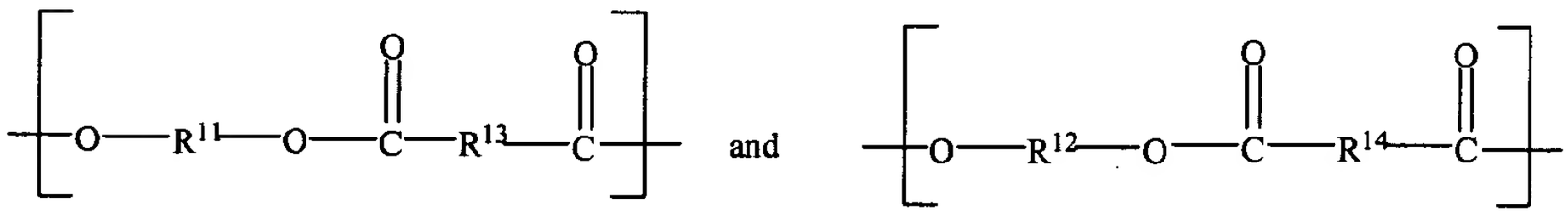
a. introducing a phenol-containing compound comprising terpene-phenol resin into a biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer composition in an amount sufficient to slow the degradation rate of the biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer composition; and

b. mixing the phenol-containing compound with the biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer composition;

wherein the biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer composition comprises one or more of the following:

1. an aliphatic-aromatic copolyester having repeat units of the following structures:



wherein

(i) R^{11} and R^{12} are the same or different, and are residues of one or more of diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-propanediol, 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-propanediol, 1,3-butanediol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,6-hexanediol, thiodiethanol, 1,3-cyclohexanedimathanol, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, 2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-1,3-cyclobutanediol, triethylene glycol, or tetraethylene glycol;

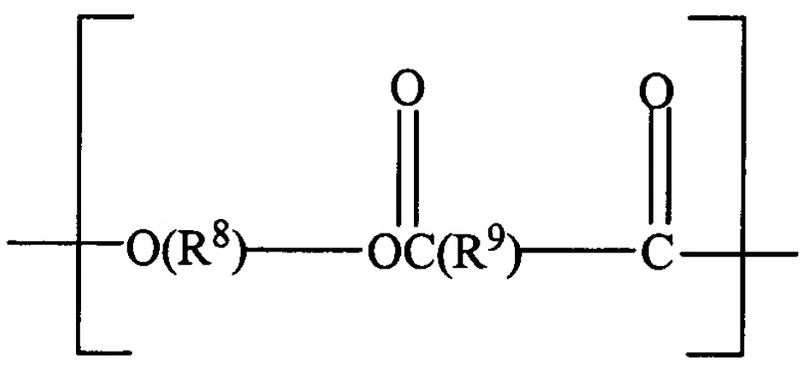
(ii) R^{11} and R^{12} are 100% of the diol components in the copolyester;

(iii) R^{13} is absent or is selected from one or more of the groups consisting of C_1 - C_{12} alkylene or oxyalkylene; C_1 - C_{12} alkylene or oxyalkylene substituted with one to four substituents

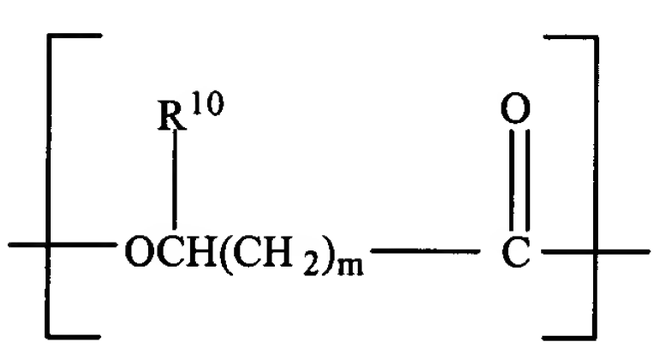
independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_6 - C_{10} aryl, and C_1 - C_4 alkoxy; C_5 - C_{10} cycloalkylene; and C_5 - C_{10} cycloalkylene substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_6 - C_{10} aryl, and C_1 - C_4 alkoxy; and

(iv) R^{14} is selected from one or more of the groups consisting of C_6 - C_{10} aryl, and C_6 - C_{10} aryl substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, and C_1 - C_4 alkoxy;

2. an aliphatic polyester having repeat units of one or more of the following structures:



or



wherein m is an integer of from 0 to 10, and R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; C_1-C_{12} alkyl; C_1-C_{12} alkyl substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo,

C_6-C_{10} aryl, and C_1-C_4 alkoxy; C_5-C_{10} cycloalkyl; and C_5-C_{10} cycloalkyl substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_6-C_{10} aryl, and C_1-C_4 alkoxy,

wherein R^8 is selected from the group consisting of C_2-C_{12} alkylene or C_2-C_{12} oxyalkylene; C_2-C_{12} alkylene or C_2-C_{12} oxyalkylene substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_6-C_{10} aryl, and C_1-C_4 alkoxy; C_5-C_{10} cycloalkylene; C_5-C_{10} cycloalkylene substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_6-C_{10} aryl, and C_1-C_4 alkoxy, and

wherein R^9 is absent or is selected from one or more of the group consisting of C_1-C_{12} alkylene or oxyalkylene; C_1-C_{12} alkylene or oxyalkylene substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_6-C_{10} aryl, and C_1-C_4 alkoxy; C_5-C_{10} cycloalkylene; and C_5-C_{10} cycloalkylene substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_6-C_{10} aryl, and C_1-C_4 alkoxy; and

3) a C_1-C_{10} cellulose ester having a DS equal to or less than about 2.5; and

c. forming the biodegradable polymer composition into an article, wherein the article comprises: a film, a bottle, a blow molded article, an injection molded article or a container, and wherein the article exhibits a delayed biodegradation rate over an article formed from a biodegradable polymer composition not including the phenol-containing compound.

C1

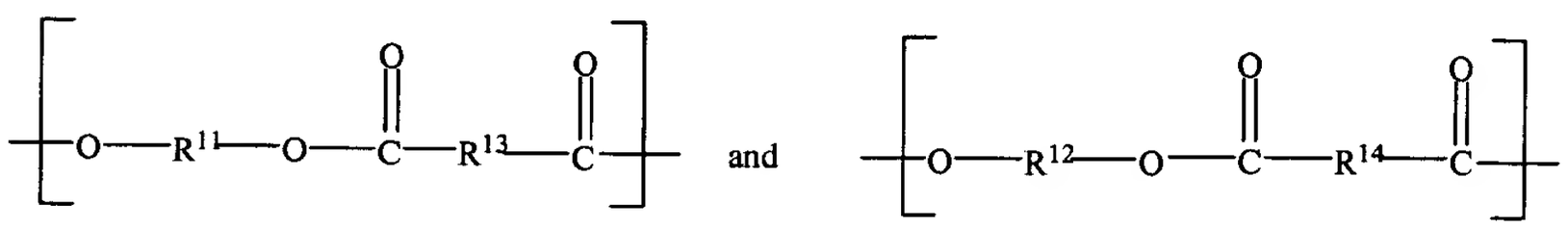
22. (Three times amended) A biodegradable polymer composition for making an article comprising a film, a bottle, a blow molded article, an injection molded article or a container, wherein the biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer-second material composition comprises:

C2

a. a phenol-containing compound comprising terpene-phenol resin incorporated in the biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer-second material composition, the phenol-containing compound being present at an amount sufficient to slow the degradation rate of the biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer second-material composition; and

b. a biodegradable polymer or biodegradable polymer-second material composition comprising one or more of the following:

1. an aliphatic-aromatic copolyester having repeat units of the following structures:



wherein

(i) R^{11} and R^{12} are the same or different, and are residues of one or more of diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-propanediol, 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-propanediol, 1,3-butanediol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,6-hexanediol, thiodiethanol, 1,3-cyclohexanedimathanol, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, 2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-1,3-cyclobutanediol, triethylene glycol, or tetraethylene glycol;

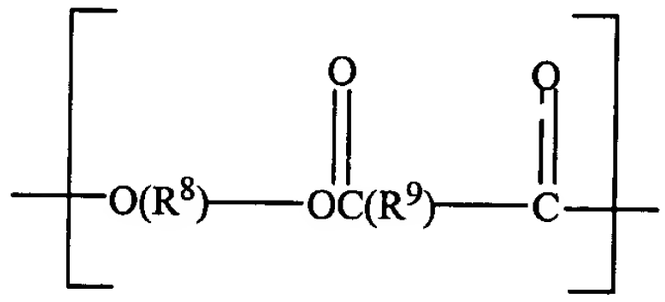
(ii) R^{11} and R^{12} are 100% of the diol components in the copolyester;

(iii) R^{13} is absent or is selected from one or more of the groups consisting of C_1 - C_{12} alkylene or oxyalkylene; C_1 - C_{12} alkylene or oxyalkylene substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_6 - C_{10} aryl, and C_1 - C_4 alkoxy; C_5 - C_{10} cycloalkylene; and C_5 - C_{10} cycloalkylene substituted

with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_6 - C_{10} aryl, and C_1 - C_4 alkoxy; and

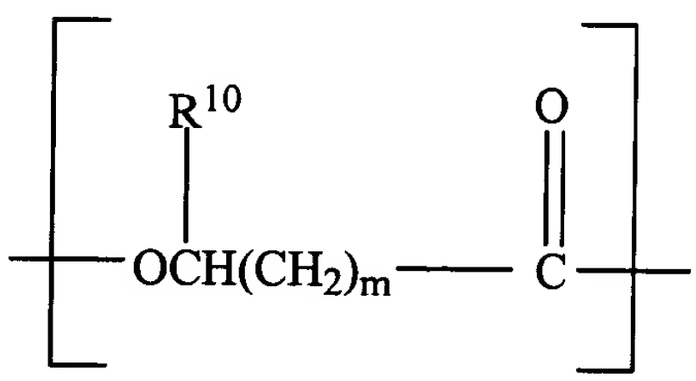
(iv) R^{14} is selected from one or more of the groups consisting of C_6 - C_{10} aryl, and C_6 - C_{10} aryl substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, and C_1 - C_4 alkoxy;

2) an aliphatic polyester having repeat units of one or more of the following structures:



or

C2



wherein m is an integer of from 0 to 10, and R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; C_1-C_{12} alkyl; C_1-C_{12} alkyl substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_6-C_{10} aryl, and C_1-C_4 alkoxy; C_5-C_{10} cycloalkyl; and C_5-C_{10} cycloalkyl substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_6-C_{10} aryl, and C_1-C_4 alkoxy,

wherein R^8 is selected from the group consisting of C_2-C_{12} alkylene or C_2-C_{12} oxyalkylene; C_2-C_{12} alkylene or C_2-C_{12} oxyalkylene substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting